जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार विभिन्न श्रेणियों की लम्बाई निम्नलिखित है : -

लम्बाई (000 कि.मी.)

| | |
|---|---|
| राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग 31-12-94 की स्थिति के अनुसार | -34 |
| राज्यीय राजमार्ग | -128.2 |
| लो.नि.वि. की अन्य सड़के | -509.8 |
| पंचायत राज सड़कें 31.3.92 की स्थिति के अनुसार) | -1091.4 |

(ङ) सड़क नेटवर्क के विस्तार सहित सड़कों का विकास एक सतत प्रक्रिया है और इससे उपलब्ध संसाधनों तथा परियोजनाओं की परस्पर प्राथमिकता के अनुसार कार्यान्वित किया जाता है।

**Introduction of Satellite Telephone Systems by VSNL**

*327. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) has a proposal to introduce satellite phone system;

(b) if so, the investment proposed to be made thereon;

(c) whether some foreign companies are going to be involved in the programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, Satellite Phone System has been in existence in India for the last 25 years. ISD telephone calls to many countries are routed through satellite systems of INTELSAT. Similarly, VSNL provides maritime communications using satellite systems of INMARSAT. Further, a handheld satellite phone system is likely to become operational by the end of this country.

(b) VSNL's present investment in INTELSAT and INMARSAT is US $40 million and US $5 million respectively VSNL propose to invest upto US $150 million in the newly formed I-CO Global Communications Ltd. for the purpose of providing global handheld satellite phone system.

(c) and (d) Information contained in the statement is enclosed.

**STATEMENT**

*Details regarding involvement of foreign companies in the programme*

INTELSAT is an international co-operative organisation based in Washington. VSNL is a signatory on behalf of the Govt of India. Other major signatories include COMSAT Corporation (USA), KDD of Japan and BT International of UK. At present, there are a total of 135 signatories.

INMARSAT is an internationally owned co-operative which provides mobile communications on land, sea and air. VSNL is the designated signatory on behalf of the Govt. of India. Presently, there are 76 member counties.

The following are the details of some major projects presently planned by various agencies for providing hand-held satellite phone systems:

(i) INMARSAT-P

—New Company (ICO-Global Communications Ltd.) promoted by INMARSAT. VSNL proposes to invest in this venture.

(ii) IRIDIUM :

—Promoted by Motorola Corporation of USA. Indian Financial institutions headed by IL&FS plan to invest in this project.

(iii) GLOBAL STAR :

—Promoted by Loral Corporation and Qualcomm of USA.

(iv) ODYSSEY :

—Promoted by TRW of USA and supported by Teleglobe of Canada.

(v) ELLIPSO SYSTEM :

—Promoted by Mobile Communications Holding Inc. of USA.

(vi) ASIA MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS (AMT) :

—Regional Mobile Statellite System promoted by a Singapore based private company.

In addition, DOT proposes to set up a satellite based mobile telephone system within the cuntry using INSAT.

**Environmental clearance of Irrigation and Industrial projects of Karnataka**

*328. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Irrigation and Industrial projects proposed by the Karnataka Government which are held up for want of Environmental clearance;

(b) the duration for which these projects have been pending with the Ministry; and

(c) the duration of time the Ministry takes to clear projects and the reasons for the delay in giving clearances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) No Irrigation and Industrial projects proposed by the Karnataka Government are held up for pendency of environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, one thermal power project at Chamalapura was referred in August, 1994 by the State owned Karnataka Poper Corporation Limited (KPCL). Later KPCL informed that the project is likely to be implemented in the private sector. In view of the uncertainty with regard to the implementing agency could be identified. Implementing agency has not yet been identified by the KPC.

(c) A final decision on the clearances of the project proposals is taken within a stipulated time period of 90 days from the date of receipt of all requisite information and relevant details from the project proponents.

**Seminar on National Forestry Action Plan**

*329. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a Seminar was held recently on the National Forestry Action Plan;

(b) if, so whether any report has been prepared; if so, what are the main recommendations contained therein;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the recommendations, if so, what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations; and

(d) how much barren land has been brought under social forestry projects in the country during the last three years?